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amended*

forming the disc-shaped metal sheet to have a non-processed portion;
rotating the disc-shaped metal sheet material;
pressing the outer periphery of the metal sheet material in a radially inward
direction, while continuing to rotate the metal sheet material;
thickening the outer periphery axially and without buckling by said
pressing[, the metal sheet material then also defining a non-processed portion];
protruding the outer periphery to either side of the non-processed portion
of the metal sheet material; and
forming a peripheral wall protruding to either side of the non-processed
portion.

REMARKS

The above amendment to the specification is presented to provide support for the recitation in claims 7 and 8. The non-processed or stepped portion is clearly shown in the drawings so no new matter is being introduced by this amendment.

Claim 1 has been further amended to clarify the role of the non-processed portion in the claimed invention. The method starts with "an annular member" that is "disc-shaped." It is then altered to form the non-processed portions. This step is now clearly defined.

The rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 USC 102(b) over Deggau et al, and the further rejection of claims 7 and 8 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Deggau et al in view of Kanemitsu et al are noted and again respectfully traversed.

Deggau et al does not disclose a "non-processed portion," i.e., a portion which is formed from the starting material. In Deggau et al the only portion that is formed from the


starting material is the end portion. The outer periphery cannot also be the non-processed portion, otherwise the recitation of both an outer periphery and a non-processed portion would be redundant (different names for the same part) and confusing. The importance of the non-processed portion has been indicated in the last Response filed, namely that distortion in the hole 13 is avoided. The portion between the dies also cannot be the non-processed portion (as suggested by the examiner) because it is not formed from the starting material but forms part of the starting material. According to the present invention, the non-processed portion is formed from the starting blank, it is not part of the starting blank

Also, Deggau et al discloses that the roller 21 is a "buckling roller." That means that the region 12 is formed by buckling, that is, the material flows axially outward, when viewing Fig. 2b. This does not and cannot happen with the method of the present invention because the sides of the chevron portion 16 are confined as shown in Figs. 1b and 2b.

To clarify these distinctions, claim 1 has been further amended to positively recite that the non-processed portion is formed and that the outer periphery is thickened without buckling.

These distinctions are not found in Deggau et al or in Kanemitsu et al. Accordingly, the amendment to claim 1 should be entered and this application allowed with claims 1-8.

Respectfully submitted,


Felix J. Ambrosio
Reg. No. 25,721

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JONES, TULLAR & COOPER, P.C.
P.O. Box 2266 Eads Station
Arlington, VA 22202
(703) 415-1500